* I'll follow you, good master Robert Shallow.
Bardolph, look to our horses. *[Exeunt* B^RDOLPH *and Page* I. *If I* were sawed into quantities, I should make four dozen of such bearded hermit's staves [3] as master Shallow [4]. It is a wonderful thing, to see the semblable coherence of his men's spirits and his : They, by observing him, do bear themselves like foolish justices; he, by conversing with them, is turned into a justice-like serving man : their spirits are so married in conjunction with the participation of society, that they flock together in consent [5], like so many wild geese. If I had a suit to master Shallow, I would humour his men, with the imputation of being near their master [6] : if to his men I would curry with master Shallow, that no man could better command his servants. It is certain, that either wise bearing or ignorant carriage,

sent instance, is used with reference to the diminutive size of the page or has the ancient signification — *gallant*, let the reader determine. Thus, in Chapman's version of the eleventh Iliad :

" <« . - as little suffer I
" In this same *tall* exploit of thine.[1]*

STEEVENS.

3 — bearded hermit's staves-—] He had before called him the starved justice. His want of flesh is a standing jest.

JOHNSON.

4 —-master Shallow,] Shallow's folly seems to have been almost proverbial. So, in Decker's Satiromastix, 1602: " — We must have false fires to amaze these spangle babies, these true heirs of master *Iustice Shallow.*' STEEVENS.

s . — they flock together in CONSENT.] i. e. *in concentu*, or in one mind, one party. So, Macbeth :

** If you shall cleave to my *consent* "

See vol. xi. p. 92, n. 3, and note on King Henry VI. Part I. Act I. Sc. I. line 5. The word, however, may be derived from *consensio, consensus*, Lat. STEEVENS.

*! •— • In *concent*," i. e. in union, in accord. In our author's time the word in this sense was written *concent*, (as it here is in the old copy,) and that spelling continued to Cowley's time. See Davideis, book iii. :

** Learning *consent* and concord from his lyre." MAI- ONE*

6 — NEAR their master :l i. e. admitted to their master's con-» fidence. STEEVENS,